

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for selecting a cell-based channel coding scheme, from a plurality of channel coding schemes, for use in initiating communication with subscriber units in a cell of a communication system, wherein the selection of the cell-based channel coding scheme is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes used for communications with subscriber units in the cell.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 also comprising the step of recording the channel coding scheme used for communication with at least a proportion of subscriber units in the cell.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the channel coding scheme used for each block of data in communications with subscriber units is recorded.
4. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the channel coding scheme in use at the end of a communication with a subscriber unit is recorded.
5. The method as claimed in one of claims 2-4 wherein the cell-based channel coding scheme is selected based on the recorded data.
6. The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the cell-based channel coding scheme is selected based on the channel coding scheme most commonly used in communication with subscriber units in the cell.
7. The method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein an uplink cell-based channel coding scheme and a downlink cell-based channel coding scheme are selected separately.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the uplink cell-based channel coding scheme is selected is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes used for uplink communications from subscriber units in the cell.
9. The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the downlink cell-based channel coding scheme is selected is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes used for downlink communications to subscriber units in the cell.
10. The method as claimed in any preceding claim comprising the step of determining that initiation of a communication to a subscriber unit using the cell-selected channel coding scheme is unsuccessful and selecting a more robust channel coding scheme for a further attempt at initiating communication with that subscriber unit.
11. The method as claimed in any preceding claim comprising the step of recording a final channel coding scheme used for a communication with a subscriber unit, and using said final channel coding scheme instead of the cell-based channel coding scheme for initiating a communication with the subscriber unit within a predetermined period from the finish of the previous communication.
12. A method for communicating with a subscriber unit, comprising the step of allocating an initial channel coding scheme to the communication, the initial channel coding scheme being a channel coding scheme selected in accordance with one of claims 1-11; and altering the channel coding scheme during the communication based on radio condition information.

13. A storage medium storing processor-implementable instructions for storing a processor to carry out the method of any of claims 1-12.

14. Apparatus comprising

a processor for selecting a cell-based channel coding scheme, from a plurality of channel coding schemes, for use in initiating communication with subscriber units in a cell of a communication system, wherein the selection of the cell-based channel coding scheme is dependent on information relating to channel coding schemes used for communications with subscriber units in the cell.

15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 also comprising a memory for storing information relating to channel coding schemes used for communications with subscriber units in the cell.

16. The apparatus as claimed in one of claims 14 or 15 wherein the apparatus is a packet control unit

17. A method substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

18. Apparatus substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.